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**For immediate release**  
Patrol

**Contact:** Melissa Gannie, Washington State

253-912-4932

July 14, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.

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## **Fire Mobilization Ordered for the Horse Heaven Hills Complex Fire**

State fire assistance has been mobilized to support local firefighters working to contain wildfires burning in Benton and Klickitat Counties. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the State Fire Services Mobilization Plan at 6:00 p.m. on July 13, 2007.

There are numerous fires burning in the area of McBee Grade and Webber Canyon near Benton City. Lightning is the cause of the fires which are estimated to be burning over 1,500 acres. Ten residences are threatened and 30 people are expected to be evacuated. Thunder storms continue in this area. Five strike teams of wildland engines have been requested to assist.

Lightning also caused two fires in Klickitat County, one in the Alderdale region and the other in the Wood Gulch region. The estimated size of these fires is 15,000 acres. Six homes, numerous farm buildings, crops, and live stock are threatened. Four strike teams of wildland engines have been requested to assist.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray remains at Phase II, to coordinate state assistance for the Horse Heaven Hills Complex Fire.

Under the mobilization plan, the Fire Protection Bureau will be coordinating the initial dispatch of firefighters, engines, water tenders, and helicopters. The State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide personnel, equipment and other resources from around the state when wildfires exceed the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions.

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